

THERE WILL BE SOME FRUIT

This is the point of the parable of the Sower and the Soils.

Luke 8:11-15 (NKJV)

11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 “Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

13 “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

14 “Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

15 “But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience [perseverance]. (emphasis mine)

“That is the reason we have so many mushroom converts, so many persons that are always happy! happy! happy! and never were miserable. Why? Because their stony ground is not plowed up; they have not got a conviction of the law... they fall away... That makes me so cautious now, which I was not thirty years ago, of dubbing converts too soon. Now I wait a little , and see if people bring forth fruit; for there are so many blossoms which March winds blow away that I cannot believe they are converts till I see fruit brought forth.” –**George Whitefield** (1714-1770)

The parable of the Sower and the Soils is a very IMPORTANT teaching in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is found in Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; and Luke 8:4-15.

Indeed, it is a very prominent parable! Some have called it the “gateway” parable to all other parables. After speaking the parable it is said of Jesus:

Luke 8:8 (NKJV)

“...When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

This is IMPORTANT! Something VERY significant is being taught! We better get this! It is often stated that there is essentially ONE MAIN POINT being brought out in a parable and therefore we should be careful not to press the details too much. However, we don’t want to miss the MAIN POINT.

The point of this parable is that there are various responses to the WORD. All of these people HEAR the word and respond in various ways. However, the **ONLY SAVING RESPONSE is the one that responds with a GOOD HEART and proves it in CONSISTENT FRUIT-BEARING. That is the essential point!**

Those by the **wayside** are non-responsive. They HEAR the Word but it never takes root in their heart. They never really believe it.

The ones on the **rock** initially receive the Word with joy. These are “emotional” converts. They get all excited and claim to have believed, BUT there is no real root, and in the time of testing, they fall away. I fear that many “professing” believers fit into this category. They may have walked forward, prayed a prayer, or been baptized. They claim this “experience,” but when the going gets tough, it proves that they are not genuine. They do not persevere.

The ones that fell among the **thorns** are choked with the things of this life. They never really made a saving faith commitment. Their real commitment is to this world and the things of this life. They are too busy serving themselves and things to have a heart for God. They bring NO FRUIT to maturity. No fruit proves no salvation.

The **good ground** represents the truly saved. They receive the Word with a **noble and good heart and BEAR FRUIT with perseverance**. These are the genuine.

Lots of people claim to “believe,” but does it bear fruit in their lives? This parable teaches us that if FAITH is real, it will bring forth consistent fruit. Indeed, some are more fruitful than others (cf. Matt. 13:23), but the principle remains – saving faith comes from a right heart, and it demonstrates itself in the life.

A lot of the ministry involves “sowing”. There are various responses. Some initially look like they are genuine, but are not! ONLY the genuine persevere and bear consistent fruit. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Don’t confuse a temporary “**emotional**” response with a “**fruitful**” saving faith commitment!